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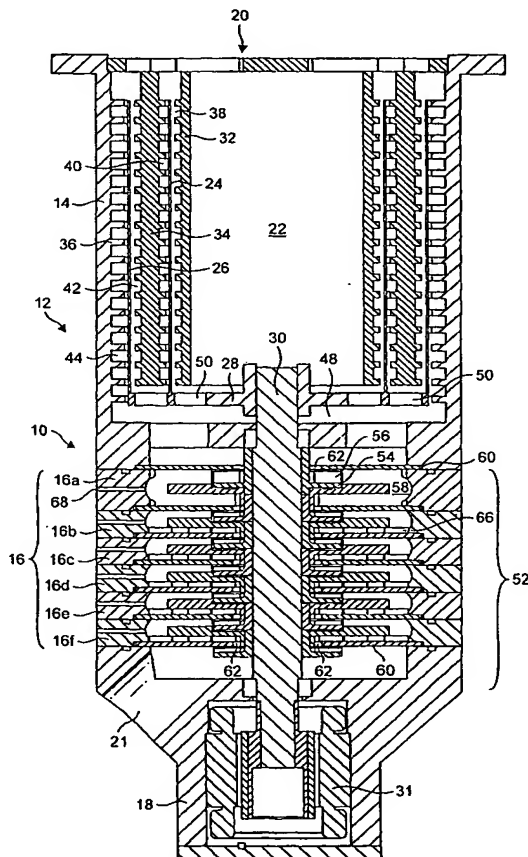
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(54) Title: **VACUUM PUMP**



(57) Abstract: A vacuum pumping arrangement is described for evacuating a load lock chamber. A booster pump comprises a molecular drag stage and a multi-stage centrifugal compressor mechanism. A backing pump comprises a multi-stage centrifugal compressor mechanism exhausting pumped fluid at atmospheric pressure. Such arrangements can reduce noise, size and vibration levels associated with conventional load lock pumping arrangements.

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